21: Davar--359 (no date) 1934 Jivaro
116, 122

"Traversing the Amazon basin was only a part of our Cycling expedition round the World, but it was easily the best part of it. I do not propose to narrate here the hardships we encountered, or the dangers that befell us, or the adventures that came our way, or the wonderful things we witnessed. There will be proper time and place to narrate them in all their splendour. What I propose to deal with is our experiences among the wild tribes of Peru, who go under the general name of 'Jivaro' or 'Khivro' as the explorers are wont to pronounce this word, and who have been noted for a peculiar custom, which is a record by itself of the shocking levity to which customs and ceremonies among the primitive societies can descend."

21: Davar--359 (2) (no date) 1934 Jivaro
116, 727, 555

"I refer to the custom among thee 'Jivaro' Indians of making a ghastly trophy out of the heads of their decapitated enemy,, by treating it to a process which causes the head to shrink to less than one-third of itts original size. The martial ambition of the Jivaro Indian is not satisfied with merelly slaying his enemy and recording his victory by adding a feather to his cap. He goes a sstep further and wants to preserve a concrete record of his victory in the shape of the shrunken head of his unfortunate victim."

21: Davar--360 (no date) 1934 Jivaro
116, 727, 157

"To have strayed into the regions inhabited by these primitive occupants of the Amazon basin was no small piece of good fortune for us. I was counting upon securing a shrunken head or two by way of an interesting trophy and to witness, if chance permitted, the ceremony, or learn from the natives the secrets of this curious process which is as much a mystery to the civilised world, as the mumifying process used by the Egyptians to preserve the mortal remains of their dead.

But the Jivaro Indian cannot be induced to part with his secrets at any cost. He is extremely tenacious in holding to silence as regards this process, and guards his secrets as he would his life. Because of this, no explorer or traveller of the civilized world has, as far as I know, managed to learn the details of process, and notwithstanding the assertions of Dr. Rafael Karstein to the contrary, I seriously doubt if there is a single living being in the civilised world, who knows exactly what these shrinking ingredients consist of."

21: Davar--360-361 (no date) 1934 Jivaro-1
116, 727

"....I was not totally unfortunate in this respect. I did manage to procure a couple of these dwarfed heads and was even able to witness partially the ceremony which accompanies this dwarfing process. 'Ceremony' is not at all the wrong expression to use in this connection, for to the Jivaro Indian, this process has a touching religious significance. After all my efforts at collecting facts, I am in a position to give a brief account of this head-shrinking process. [361]

In the first place the head is severed from the trunk, well down on the neck. The skin is then cut open from the hair-line on the fore-head, and along it, right down to the back of the head and neck. After this gruesome process is over, the flesh is stripped from the cranial bone. Next the whole cranial skeleton is removed, and the first stage of the process closes here. As the cranium bone is no more of use, it is either buried or thrown away. But not uneften, it is hoisted on a pole, and used to decorate the owner's hut or 'bohio'.

....As soon as the hard cranium is got rid of, the skin is filled with hot sands and pebbles. It is stitched up with cord and parboiled in a vegetable pickle, whose contents are known only to the Jivaro Indians. After parboiling, the head is removed and again filled with hot sand and pebbles, but this time the neck is closed up with grass. The next move is to roll the head in a bejuco bag containing more of hot sand and pebbles. From time to time it is taken out and allowed to remain for a period--about two hours--

in a cold pickling solution. The rolling motion, combined with patting the head with hands, constitutes the chief part of the shrinking process. When finally the head emerges out of the process, it has shrunk to a size about three inches in length and two in breadth--a dwarfed piece of human anatomy, a miniature likeness of the wretched victim."